

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please amend claims 1, 7 and 17, such that the status of the claims is as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A slider for supporting a transducing head proximate a rotating disc, the slider comprising:
- a slider body, including a primary air bearing and a secondary air bearing, the slider body having a disc opposing face bounded by a leading edge and a trailing edge wherein the transducing head is located on the disc opposing face proximate the trailing edge and on the secondary air bearing; and
- means for permitting vertical movement of the transducing head with respect to the slider body in response to local disc surface topography to maintain head media spacing (HMS) between the transducing head and the disc at a substantially constant separation distance as the slider flies above the disc wherein the means are exposed at the disc opposing face.
2. (Original) The slider of claim 1 wherein the means for permitting vertical movement of the transducing head is an interface connecting the primary air bearing to the secondary air bearing.
3. (Original) The slider of claim 2 wherein the interface displaces the secondary air bearing vertically with respect to the primary air bearing.
4. (Original) The slider of claim 2 wherein the interface substantially surrounds the secondary air bearing.
5. (Original) The slider of claim 2 wherein the interface is less stiff than the primary air bearing.
6. (Withdrawn)

7. (Currently Amended) A slider for supporting a transducing head proximate a rotating disc, the slider comprising:

a primary air bearing having a disc opposing face bounded by a leading edge and a first trailing edge wherein an air bearing surface is defined on the disc opposing face;

a secondary air bearing having a disc opposing face bounded by a front edge and a second trailing edge wherein the air bearing surface is defined on the disc opposing face, the air bearing surface having a pad proximate the second trailing edge wherein the transducing head is located on the pad; and

an interface having a disc opposing face, the interface connecting the secondary air bearing to the primary air bearing wherein the interface displaces the transducing head vertically with respect to the primary air bearing to maintain head media spacing (HMS) between the transducing head and the disc at a substantially constant separation distance as the slider flies above the disc.

8. (Original) The slider of claim 7 wherein the interface substantially surrounds the secondary air bearing.

9. (Original) The slider of claim 7 wherein the interface is less stiff than the primary air bearing.

10. (Original) The slider of claim 7 wherein the primary and secondary air bearings comprise a first material and the interface comprises a second material, the first material being more stiff than the second material.

11-12. (Withdrawn)

13. (Original) The slider of claim 7 wherein the pad modulates in response to local disc surface topography to maintain the HMS substantially constant.

14-16. (Withdrawn)

17. (Currently Amended) A slider for supporting a transducing head proximate a rotating disc, the slider comprising:

- a slider body having a disc opposing face bounded by a leading edge and a trailing edge, the slider body having a longitudinal axis;
- an air bearing surface defined on the disc opposing face, the air bearing surface having a pad proximate the trailing edge wherein the transducing head is located on the pad; and
- an interface defined on the disc opposing face of the slider body and substantially surrounding the transducing head wherein the interface displaces the transducing head vertically with respect to the slider body to maintain head media spacing (HMS) between the transducing head and the disc at a substantially constant separation distance as the slider flies above the disc.

18. (Original) The slider of claim 17 wherein the interface is less stiff than the slider body.

19. (Original) The slider of claim 17 wherein the slider body comprises a first material and the interface comprises a second material, the first material being more stiff than the second material.

20-24. (Withdrawn)

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